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## Letter From the Editor

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# Letter From the Editor

To our readers,

On behalf of the members of the Criminal Law Brief, it is with great pleasure and excitement that I introduce a new and improved issue for Fall 2009. Our contributing authors and the members of the Criminal Law Brief have worked diligently to prepare this publication. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who made this semester's issue possible.

First and foremost, I would like to thank our contributing authors. Their diverse articles bring light to the multitudinous controversial issues facing our criminal justice system. Without interesting and relevant content, we could not have published (quite literally) this issue.

I would also like to thank the Editorial Board members for all of their hard work. Danielle Combes, our Executive Editor, kept our staff organized throughout the editing process. Helena Man, our Publications Editor, carefully reviewed all of the articles to ensure proper grammar, punctuation, and citation. Courtney Schumacher, our Articles Editor, searched high and low to find content for our forthcoming issues. Brian Meltzer, our Managing Editor, made sure we remained within our budget throughout the semester. Finally, Katy Graham, our Layout Editor, worked many hours using Quark XPress 8 to convert design all of our content from Word format into the publication format you are currently reading.

Gratitude must also be expressed to our Line Editors, Ernest Edwards, Diana Tafur, and Judith Cuadro-Zimmerman, for maintaining a watchful eye on each of our articles as they moved through the editing process.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all of the Staff Editors. They put in considerable time scrupulously editing each article. Such work requires great focus, time, and patience.

You may have already noticed that we have made key design changes, including an updated, crisp cover design. Special thanks to staff editor Ashley Rebstock for spearheading the effort to redesign our cover. Additionally, we have made a number of formatting improvements throughout the body, and I am excited to see the Brief evolve as we continue to make aesthetic improvements in coming issues.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to the annual Criminal Law Brief/Criminal Law Society symposium at the Washington College of Law on March 29, 2010. The symposium will explore hot-button criminal law issues, primarily focusing on how to balance time-tested constitutional protections against the practical limitations of modern law enforcement. Leading authorities will discuss such issues as: mandatory minimum sentencing, drug law disparities, application of the death penalty, requirements for in-person testimony of law enforcement officials vs. offering affidavits, and immigration and human trafficking laws. More details about the symposium can be found at the Founder's Day website: <http://www.wcl.american.edu/seclc/founders/2010/>.



*The former Criminal Law Brief cover.*

Happy Reading,

John Nohlgren  
Editor-in-Chief